

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are indicated with strikethrough and/or added terms are indicated with underscoring. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A casting die comprising:

a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity; and

a cavity forming member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, the cavity forming member being integral with the main body;

said main body being made of steel, the steel being equivalent to steels designated as an SCM material or an SKD material;

said cavity forming member being made of maraging steel or a steel equivalent to steels designated as an SKH material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the SCM material or the SKD material which said main body is made of,

wherein the material designations are as designated by Japanese Industrial Standards; and
wherein said cavity forming member is a separate body that is fitted onto and made integral with the surface of said main body.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Previously presented) A casting die according to claim 1, wherein said cavity forming member is provided as an insert die.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A casting die according to claim 1, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member is disposed in a position closest to said gate.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a casting die having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, comprising the steps of:

forming a main body of steel with a mold cavity defined thereby;

defining a recess in a portion of said mold cavity; and

placing a cavity forming member made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the steel which said main body is made of, in said recess in said main body,

wherein the cavity forming member is ~~one of formed by depositing material~~ fused to the main body on a face of the mold cavity through welding, ~~and fitted in or joined to the mold cavity.~~

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a casting die having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity, comprising the step of:

placing, in a portion of the mold cavity in the main body which has been used in a casting process, a cavity forming member made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than steel which said main body is made of,

wherein the cavity forming member is ~~one of formed by depositing material~~ fused to the

main body on a face of the mold cavity through welding, ~~and fitted in or joined to the mold~~
cavity.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said cavity forming member is formed by depositing material on a face of the mold cavity through welding.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 5~~ of manufacturing a casting die
having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming
member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity,
said method comprising the steps of:

forming a main body of steel with a mold cavity defined thereby;

defining a recess in a portion of said mold cavity; and

placing a cavity forming member made of a material which is better with respect to at
least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than the steel of which said main
body is made of, in said recess in said main body,

wherein said cavity forming member comprises an insert die fitted in or joined to said main body.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member is disposed in a position closest to said gate.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein said cavity forming member is formed by depositing material on a face of the mold cavity through welding.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 6~~ of manufacturing a casting die having a main body having a wall surface for defining a mold cavity, and a cavity forming member having a wall serving as a portion of the mold cavity,
said method comprising the step of:

placing, in a portion of the mold cavity in the main body which has been used in a casting process, a cavity forming member made of a material which is better with respect to at least one of toughness, hardness, and thermal conductivity than steel which said main body is made of,
wherein said cavity forming member comprises an insert die fitted in or joined to said main body.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein said mold cavity is bent or curved from a gate for receiving an introduced molten metal, and said cavity forming member is disposed in a position closest to said gate.